

### **REMARKS**

The applicants acknowledge, with thanks, receipt of the Office Action mailed August 1, 2005. The application was filed with 38 claims. Claims 1-3, 5, 7-14, 16, 18-26, 28-34 and 36-38 were rejected under 35 USC § 102 over Beiermann. Claims 4-15 were rejected under 35 USC § 103 over Beiermann in view of Im. Claims 6, 17, 27 and 35 were objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim. The Examiner indicated these claims would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. The claims have been amended accordingly.

Claim 6 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of both previous parent claims, claims 1 and 5. Claims 2-5 and 8-11 have been amended to depend from amended claim 6. Claim 7 continues to provide further limitation to claim 6. Claims 1 and 5 have been canceled. Accordingly, remaining claims 2-4 and 6-11 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Similarly, the subject matter of claims 16 and 12 has been amended into claim 17, which had previously been dependent therefrom. Claims 13-15 and 18-22 have been amended to now provide additional limitation to the subject matter of claim 17. Claims 12 and 16 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 13-15 and 17-22 are submitted to be in condition for allowance.

The subject matter of claims 23 and 26 have been amended into claim 27 which formally depended therefrom. Claims 23 and 26 have been canceled. Claims 24-25 and claims 28-30 have been amended to depend from claim 27. Accordingly, these claims are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

Finally, the subject matter of claims 31 and 34 have been incorporated into claim 35 which formally depended therefrom. Claims 31 and 34 have been canceled. Claims 32-33 and 36-38 have been amended to depend from claim 35. Accordingly, these claims are also submitted to be in condition for allowance over the art of record.

In addition to the foregoing, new claims 39-54 have been added. New claims 39-46 add further limitation to claim 6 which has been indicated to be allowable on the cited

record. Claims 47-54 add further limitations to allowable claim 17. Accordingly, these claims are also submitted to be in condition for allowance.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Examiner's observations relative to patentability are appreciated and have been incorporated in the subject amendment. Accordingly, it is submitted that all remaining claims are patentably distinct over the art of record and in condition for allowance thereover.

If there are any uncovered fees, or any overpayments, necessitated by the foregoing communication, please charge such fees to our Deposit Account No. 50-0902, referencing our Docket No. 77414/33289.

Respectfully submitted,

TUCKER, ELLIS & WEST LLP



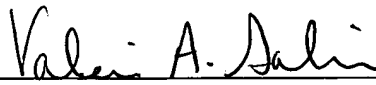
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Date: November 1, 2005



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